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(e). comparing the amount of binding in the first binding mixture with the amount of binding in the second binding mixture;

wherein the compound is capable of inhibiting IL-13 binding to the IL-13 receptor when a decrease in the amount of binding of the second binding mixture occurs, and wherein said receptor chain protein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(1) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(2) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 26 to 341; and

(3) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 363 to 380.

61. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein said protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

62. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein said protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 26 to 341.

63. (New) A method of identifying an inhibitor of IL-13 binding to the IL-13 receptor which comprises:

(a) combining a receptor chain protein with IL-13 or a biologically active fragment thereof, said combination forming a first binding mixture;

(b) measuring the amount of binding between the receptor chain protein and the IL-13 or fragment in the first binding mixture;

(c) combining a compound with the receptor chain protein and the IL-13 or fragment to form a second binding mixture;

(d) measuring the amount of binding in the second binding mixture; and

(e) comparing the amount of binding in the first binding mixture with the amount of binding in the second binding mixture;

wherein the compound is capable of inhibiting IL-13 binding to the IL-13 receptor when a decrease in the amount of binding of the second binding mixture occurs, and wherein said receptor chain protein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(1) the mature sequence of the IL-13 receptor chain protein, IL-13 Rβ;

(2) the extracellular domain sequence of (1); and

(3) the intracytoplasmic domain sequence of (1).

64. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein said protein comprises the amino acid sequence (1).

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65. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein said protein comprises the amino acid sequence (2).

66. (New) A method of identifying an inhibitor of IL-13 binding to the IL-13Rβ receptor which comprises:

(a) measuring the amount of binding between the receptor chain protein IL-13Rβ and IL-13 or a fragment thereof in a first binding mixture;

(b) measuring the amount of said binding in a second binding mixture comprising a compound, the receptor chain protein IL-13Rβ and IL-13 or a fragment thereof, and;

(c) comparing said amounts of binding to determine whether said compound modulates the biological activity of IL-13Rβ;

wherein the compound is capable of antagonizing IL-13 binding to IL-13Rβ when a decrease in the amount of binding of the second binding mixture occurs, and wherein said receptor chain protein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(1) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(2) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 23 to 342; and

(3) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 365 to 380.

67. (New) The method of claim 66, wherein said protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

68. (New) The method of claim 66, wherein said protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 23-342.

69. (New) A method of identifying an inhibitor of IL-13 binding to the IL-13Rβ receptor which comprises:

(a) measuring the amount of binding between the receptor chain protein IL-13Rβ and IL-13 or a fragment thereof in a first binding mixture;

(b) measuring the amount of said binding in a second binding mixture comprising a compound, the receptor chain protein IL-13Rβ and IL-13 or a fragment thereof, and;

(c) comparing said amounts of binding to determine whether said compound modulates the biological activity of IL-13Rβ;

E1 wherein the compound is capable of antagonizing IL-13 binding to IL-13Rβ when a decrease in the amount of binding of the second binding mixture occurs, and wherein said receptor chain protein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(1) the mature sequence of the IL-13 receptor chain protein, IL-13 Rβ;

(2) the extracellular domain sequence of (1); and

(3) the intracytoplasmic domain sequence of (1).

70. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein said protein comprises the amino acid sequence (1).

71. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein said protein comprises the amino acid sequence (2).

72. (New) An isolated IL-13bc (IL13Rβ) protein comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(b) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 26 to 341;

(c) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 363 to 380; and

(d) fragments of (a)-(c) having the ability to bind IL-13 or a biologically active fragment thereof.

73. (New) The protein of claim 72, comprising the sequence from amino acid 26 to 341 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

74. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a protein of claim 72 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

75. (New) The protein of claim 72, comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 363 to 380.

76. (New) The protein of claim 72, wherein said amino acid sequence is part of a fusion protein.

77. (New) The protein of claim 76, comprising an Fc fragment.

78. (New) A protein produced according to a process comprising:

(a) growing a culture of a host cell in a suitable culture medium; and

(b) purifying the protein from the culture,

wherein said host cell is transformed with a polynucleotide operably linked to an expression control sequence, and wherein said polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence selected

from the group consisting of

(1) a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID 2;

(2) a nucleotide sequence encoding the IL-13Rβ binding chain varying from the sequence of the nucleotide sequence specified in (1) as a result of degeneracy of the genetic code;

(3) a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridizing under stringent conditions to (1); and

(4) an allelic variant of the nucleotide sequence specified in (1).

79. (New) The protein of claim 78, wherein said nucleotide sequence is that of (1).

80. (New) The protein of claim 78, wherein said nucleotide sequence is that of (2).

81. (New) The protein of claim 78, wherein said stringent conditions are 52°C in 5xSSC followed by washing at 52°C in 2xSSC.

82. (New) The protein of claim 72, comprising SEQ ID NO: 2.

83. (New) An isolated IL-13Rβ protein comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(b) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 23 to 342;

(c) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 365 to 380; and

(d) fragments of (a)-(c) having the ability to bind IL-13 or a biologically active fragment thereof.

84. (New) The protein of claim 83, comprising the sequence from amino acid 23 to 342 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

85. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a protein of claim 83, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

86. (New) The protein of claim 83, comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 365 to 380.

87. (New) An isolated IL-13Rβ protein comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the mature sequence of the IL-13 receptor chain protein, IL-13Rβ;

(b) the extracellular domain of sequence (1); and

(c) the intracytoplasmic domain sequence of (1).

(d) fragments of (a)-(c) having the ability to bind IL-13 or a biologically active fragment thereof.

88. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a protein of claim 87, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

89. (New) A method of inhibiting binding of IL-13 to the IL-13Rβ receptor in a mammalian subject, said method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a protein and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said protein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(b) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 26 to 341; and

(c) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 363 to 380.

90. (New) The method of claim 88, wherein said receptor chain protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

91. (New) The method of claim 88, wherein said receptor chain protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 26 to 341.

92. (New) A method of treating an Ig-mediated condition in a mammalian subject, said method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a protein and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said protein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(b) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 26 to 341;

(c) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 363 to 380; and

(d) fragments of (a)-(d) having the ability to bind IL-13 or a biologically active fragment thereof.

93. (New) The method of claim 92, wherein said condition is an IgE-mediated condition.

94. (New) The method of claim 93, wherein said condition is selected from the group consisting of an allergic condition, asthma and an immune complex disease.

95. (New) The method of claim 94, wherein said condition is selected from the group consisting of lupus, nephritis, thyroiditis and Grave's disease.

96. (New) The method of claim 92, wherein said protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

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97. (New) The method of claim 92, wherein said protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 26 to 341.

98. (New) The method of claim 91, wherein said protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 363 to 380.

99. (New) A method of claim 92, wherein said condition is allergy or an inflammatory disease.

100. (New) A method of inhibiting binding of IL-13 to the IL-13 receptor in a mammalian subject, said method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a protein and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said protein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the mature sequence of the IL-13 receptor chain protein, IL-13Rβ;

(b) the extracellular domain of sequence (1); and;

(c) the intracytoplasmic domain sequence of (1).

(d) fragments of (a)-(c) having the ability to bind IL-13 or a biologically active fragment thereof.

101. (New) A method of treating an Ig-mediated condition in a mammalian subject, said method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a protein and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said protein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the mature sequence of the IL-13 receptor chain protein, IL-13Rβ;

(b) the extracellular domain of sequence (1); and;

(c) the intracytoplasmic domain sequence of (1).

(d) fragments of (a)-(c) having the ability to bind IL-13 or a biologically active fragment thereof.

102. (New) The method of claim 101, wherein said condition is an IgE-mediated condition.

103. (New) The method of claim 101, wherein said condition is allergy or an inflammatory disease.

104. (New) A method of inhibiting binding of IL-13 to the IL-13 receptor in a mammalian subject, said method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a protein and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,

wherein said protein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(b) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 23 to 342; and

(c) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 365 to 380.

105. (New) The method of claim 104, wherein said receptor chain protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 23 to 342.

106. (New) A method of treating an Ig-mediated condition in a mammalian subject, said method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a protein and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said protein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(b) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 23-342;

(c) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 365 to 380; and

(d) fragments of (a)-(c) having the ability to bind IL-13 or a biologically active fragment thereof.

107. (New) The method of claim 106, wherein said condition is an IgE mediated condition.

108. (New) The method of claim 106, wherein said protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 23 to 342.

109. (New) The method of claim 106, wherein said protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 365 to 380.

110. (New) The method of claim 106, wherein said condition is allergy or an inflammatory disease.

111. (New) A protein produced according to a process comprising:

(a) growing a culture of a host cell in a suitable culture medium; and

(b) purifying the protein from the culture,

wherein said host cell is transformed with a polynucleotide operably linked to an expression control sequence, and wherein said polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of

(1) the nucleotide sequence of Fig. (2A and 2B) from nucleotide 53 to nucleotide 1192;

(2) a nucleotide sequence encoding the IL-13Rß binding chain varying from the sequence of the nucleotide sequence specified in (1) as a result of degeneracy of the genetic code;

(3) a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridizing under stringent conditions to (1); and

(4) an allelic variant of the nucleotide sequence specified in (1).

112. (New) The protein of claim 111, wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises that of (1).

113. (New) The protein of claim 111, wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises that of (2).

114. (New) The protein of claim 111, wherein said stringent conditions are 52°C in 5xSSC followed by washing at 52°C in 2xSSC.--